

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A system for relaying communications between a first device and a second
2 device utilizing a third device as an intermediary where the second device is a telephone
3 on a plain old telephone system network and the communications between the first device
4 and third device involve video, the system comprising:

5 a first input and output communication device coupled to a network and
6 being configured to send and receive communication messages;

7 a server device that separates text, video, and audio from the
8 communication messages sent by the first input and output communication device;

9 a second input and output communication device coupled to a plain old
10 telephone system; and

11 a third input and output communication device coupled to the network via
12 the server device and receiving the separated text, video, and audio to enable a
13 communication session between the first and third input and output communication
14 devices, the third input and output communication device relaying communication
15 messages from the first input and output communication device to the second input and
16 output communication device by voice over the plain old telephone system.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the audio communication between the first
2 input and output communication device and the third input and output communication
3 device is communicated using internet protocol (IP).

1 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the video communication between the first
2 input and output communication device and the third input and output communication
3 device comprises sign language.

1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the first input and output communication
2 device comprises a computer and a digital camera.

1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the first input and output communication
2 device comprises a screen display having a video portion and a text portion.

1 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the first input and output communication
2 device comprises a wireless communication device.

1 7. The system of claim 1, further comprising a router that directs
2 communication between the second and third input and output communication devices.

1 8. The system of claim 1, wherein the video separated by the server device
2 comprises NetMeeting video.

1 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the video separated by the server device
2 comprises D-Link video.

1 10. A method of relaying communications between a first device and a second
2 device utilizing a relay device as an intermediary where the second device is a telephone
3 on a plain old telephone system network and the first device and the relay device utilize
4 video in communication, the method comprising:

5 communicating with a first input and output communication device
6 coupled to a network, the first input and output device being configured to send and
7 receive video, audio, and text communication messages;

8 separating video, audio, and text communication messages from the first
9 input and output communication device;

10 receiving the separated text, video, and audio communication messages at
11 a relay communication device and establishing a communication session between the first
12 input and output communication device and the relay device; and

13 communicating with a second input and output communication device
14 over a plain old telephone system network communications based on the communications
15 received from the first input and output communication device.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the audio communication between the
2 first input and output communication device and the relay communication device is
3 communicated using internet protocol (IP).

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the video communication between the
2 first input and output communication device and the relay input and output
3 communication device comprises sign language.

1 13. The method of claim 10, wherein the communication messages are
2 communicated using the H.323 protocol.

1 14. The method of claim 10, further comprising calculating billing data based
2 on minutes elapsed in the communication session.

1 15. The method of claim 10, further comprising routing a caller voice from the
2 first input and output communication device to the second input and output
3 communication device via the relay device.

1 16. The method of claim 10, further comprising communicating voice signals
2 of an interpreter at the relay device to the second input and output communication device
3 and sign language from the interpreter to the first input and output communication
4 device.

1 17. The method of claim 10, further comprising routing a called person's
2 voice from the second input and output communication device to the first input and
3 output communication device via the relay device.

1 18. A system for relaying communications between a first device and a second
2 device utilizing a relay device as an intermediary where the second device is a telephone
3 on a plain old telephone system network and the first device and the relay device utilize
4 video in communication, the system comprising:

5 means for communicating with a first input and output communication
6 device coupled to a network, the first input and output device being configured to send
7 and receive video, audio, and text communication messages;

8 means for separating video, audio, and text communication messages from
9 the first input and output communication device;

10 means for receiving the separated text, video, and audio communication
11 messages at a relay communication device and means for establishing a communication
12 session between the first input and output communication device and the relay device;
13 and

14 means for communicating with a second input and output communication
15 device over a plain old telephone system network communications based on the
16 communications received from the first input and output communication device.

1 19. The system of claim 18, wherein the audio communication between the
2 first input and output communication device and the relay communication device is
3 communicated using internet protocol (IP).

1 20. The system of claim 18, wherein the video communication between the
2 first input and output communication device and the relay input and output
3 communication device comprises sign language.